

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Colombia	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/> 25X1
SUBJECT	Conservative Civilians Under Arms	DATE DISTR.	13 April 1953
	25X1	NO. OF PAGES	1
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	<input type="text"/> 25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REFERENCES	

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1. The government, in its efforts to counteract guerrilla activities is continuing to arm Conservative civilians in many sections of the country. These units have received little training, and, thus far, have not been very efficient; however, they serve to increase the manpower of the government forces, which are now spread rather thin. All of the civilian groups operate in conjunction with units of the Army or police, and are under the direct orders of the Army commanders in each area.
2. It is estimated that the number of Conservative civilians now under arms in the eastern Llanos totals approximately 2,000. These are located principally in the district about Villavicencio, where they are known as "guerrillas for peace". In the Department of Boyaca, in the area west of the Upia River, there are an estimated 3,000 civilians with arms; they are known as "civic police". The Boyaca civilians were selected and armed by Lt. Col. Manuel AGUDELO G., Army commander stationed in Tunja. In northwestern Cundinamarca, in the district about the town of Yacopi and along the Magdalena River, there are reported to be more than a thousand men in southern Tolima, especially in the area near the towns of Cunday and Icononzo.

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